



January 28, 2026

To: Chairperson Sanders and Members of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee

From: Eric Reiter, Voices for Children in Nebraska

Re: LB 730 Require schools and state agencies to designate restrooms and locker rooms based on sex and require state agencies to define an individual's sex as either male or female for purposes of rules and regulations, the enforcement of administrative actions, and adjudication of disputes

Chairperson Sanders and members of the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee,

Voices for Children in Nebraska opposes LB 730 as this bill puts children's safety and well-being at risk. Our organization exists to elevate the voices of children and youth and to advance public policy that ensures all young people can grow up safe, healthy, and supported in their communities. LB 730 singles out transgender and gender-diverse children for differential treatment in schools, creating environments that increase stigma, fear, and harm rather than safety.

Forcing young people to use restrooms or locker rooms that do not align with who they are undermines their dignity and exposes them to increased risk of bullying, harassment, and potential violence¹. Schools should be places where children feel safe and supported, not environments where students are singled out, surveilled, or made to feel ashamed simply for existing.

This bill also undermines children's mental health. Transgender and gender-expansive youth already face disproportionately high rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide risk². Policies that deny their identity or restrict access to basic facilities send a clear and damaging message: that they are not accepted or worthy of dignity. That message does lasting harm to a child's sense

¹ Lee, W. Y., Hobbs, J. N., Hobaica, S., DeChants, J. P., Price, M. N., & Nath, R. (2024). State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nature Human Behaviour*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>

² Wolford-Clevenger C, Cannon CJ, Flores LY, Smith PN, Stuart GL. Suicide Risk Among Transgender People: A Prevalent Problem in Critical Need of Empirical and Theoretical Research. *Violence Gend*. 2017 Sep 1;4(3):69-72. doi: 10.1089/vio.2017.0006. PMID: 29062859; PMCID: PMC5649411.

of self and belonging, as evidence shows that the presence of anti-LGBTQ school-related policies have led to an attempted suicide rate of 24% amongst LGBTQ+ youth.³

Importantly, LB 730 does not address an actual problem affecting children's safety. There is no evidence that inclusive policies endanger students. Instead, this bill targets a small and vulnerable group of children, using legislation to solve a problem that does not exist while creating new harms in its place. Nebraska's children deserve policies that protect their health, safety, and dignity—regardless of who they are. Laws should help young people grow, learn, and thrive, not make their daily lives more difficult or more dangerous.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **oppose LB 730**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

³ The Trevor Project. (2025). Mental Health Diagnoses and Access to Care Among LGBTQ+ Young People. <https://doi.org/10.70226/MTFA6875>